



City Update

News and Information for City of Saint Paul Employees

April 9, 1999

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Mayor

Norm Coleman

Council Members

Jerry Blakey

Christopher Coleman

Michael Harris

Jay Benanav

Jim Reiter

Dan Bostrom

Kathy Lantry

Saint Paul Receives AA+ Rating, Stable Outlook From Standard and Poor's

Saint Paul received some good news recently when Standard and Poor's assigned a AA+ rating and revised its outlook from negative to stable. Mayor Norm Coleman said the rating can be credited to the difficult choices and investments Saint Paul has made to restore the city's economic strength.

Standard and Poor's based its AA+ ranking on Saint Paul's:

- continuously strong financial position;
- continued rebound in property valuation;
- progress on a number of downtown development projects, including Lawson Center, RiverCentre, the Minnesota Mutual expansion and the Science Museum of Minnesota; and
- participation in the strong Twin Cities area economy.

The outlook revision – from negative to stable – reflects the resolution of a funding plan for the city's \$130 million RiverCentre Arena without increasing the city's general obligation burden and the city's strong economy.

"This rating demonstrates that we are not mortgaging our future by the investments we are making today. We are making the right decisions and taking the right steps for Saint Paul," said Mayor Coleman. "In Saint Paul, we are experiencing a remarkable economic renaissance. From increased job growth, market values and downtown development to a strong general fund balance with no increases in overall spending, our city continues to be well-positioned to build upon our recent economic successes. I am pleased with this rating."

Standard and Poor's AA+ rating was assigned to Saint Paul's \$16,375,000 general obligation capital improvement bonds and \$3,370,000 general obligation street improvement special assessment bonds. In March, Saint Paul also received a AA2 and stable outlook rating from Moody's.

"This rating demonstrates that we are not mortgaging our future by the investments we are making today. We are making the right decisions and taking the right steps for Saint Paul."

- Mayor Norm Coleman

Saint Paul
Celebrating 150 Years

Looking for Health Plan Information?

Check out the HealthPartners Consumer Choice System at www.healthpartners.com.

If you haven't already checked out the HealthPartners Consumer Choice system on the Internet at www.healthpartners.com you might want to now. It's full of easy-to-access information that you can use to make the most of your HealthPartners plan from the City of Saint Paul.

The HealthPartners Consumer Choice system is your guide to finding a doctor and clinic in the **HealthPartners Network** that best serves your needs. Information available on the system includes:

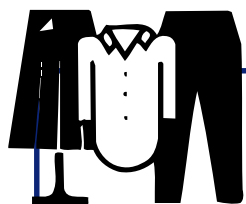
- ▲ Profiles of physicians and other caregivers, including their specialties, education, training, and areas of special interest;
- ▲ Results from independent marketing surveys showing member satisfaction with such things as waiting time for appointments and how well caregivers explained procedures;
- ▲ Clinic hours, locations, services, hospital affiliations, and more.

The easy-to-use format lets you select only the information you want. For example, you can find out what HealthPartners care network had the highest overall satisfaction rating, then find out what clinics within that care network offer extended hours and an on-site pharmacy. Or, search for clinics by location to find a clinic near your home or workplace. From there, you can read profiles of individual doctors or find out what hospitals each clinic uses.

That's just the beginning of what you'll find when you access www.healthpartners.com and click on the Consumer Choice button. It's there to help you make the best choices for yourself and your family. Give it a try!

Call HealthPartners Member Services at 612-883-5000

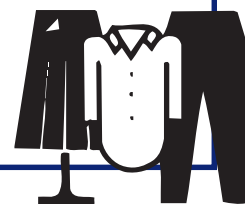
If you're looking for a specialty clinic in the **Extended Network**, such as a chiropractic clinic, physical therapy practice, or a dermatology clinic, Consumer Choice can help! To find a specific practitioner, you can call HealthPartners Member Services at 612-883-5000 for assistance, or to request current provider directories.



Clothing Drive Set for April 28

Women in City Management will again sponsor a spring clothing drive on Wednesday, April 28. Donations of cash and clothing will be provided to Martha's Closet, a new program sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church located at 500 Cedar Street in downtown Saint Paul. The goal of Martha's Closet is to assist women who are moving off of welfare into the workplace.

Clothing must be "in season" and preferably delivered on hangers. Items may be dropped off in the Housing Information Office conference room (25 West 4th Street) on April 28 at the following times: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in making a cash contribution to support the program, you may drop off checks made payable to Central Presbyterian Church - Martha's Closet. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Lisa Falk at 266-6117 or Linda Camp at 266-8920.



Y2K-Related Scams: Be informed and prepared

Scam artists are always on the lookout for new ways to con people out of their money, and the Millennium Bug presents another opportunity to do just that. Fraud experts expect Y2K-related scams to increase as the new millennium approaches.

One such scam begins with phone calls where the caller says they are representing the consumers' bank and claim the bank is having difficulty meeting requirements to be ready for the Year 2000. To protect their money, the scam artists tell consumers to transfer their money into a special bond account specially designed to protect their money until the bank can fully comply with Y2K requirements. The scam artists then ask consumers to disclose their bank account number and request verbal authorization to transfer money into the special account.

Fraud scams like these are not new and consumers should be aware of old and new scams.

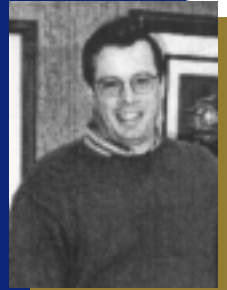
"The safest place for your money - today, tomorrow, on Jan. 1, 2000 and every day that follows - is in the bank," Mayor Norm Coleman said at a recent press conference addressing this issue.

The Minnesota Banker's Association recommends the following fraud protection tips:

- Ask the caller to identify their name, job title and bank they are representing. Then request a phone number where they can be reached and offer to call them back.
- Request written information about the deal that is being offered.
- Obtain the phone number of the caller through caller ID or the operator, and provide it to your bank and local authorities.
- Contact your bank, local authorities, Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection Division and other consumer protection resources.
- Stay informed - read the Y2K information your bank sends you.
- If you don't already do so, keep hard copies of your bank statements and records -- particularly the months just prior to the date change.
- If you bank online, make sure your personal computer is Y2K compliant. Keep a back-up disk and hard copies of your records.
- During the date change, take out as much money as you would need for any long holiday weekend.

Employee Spotlight

Erich Mische will rejoin Mayor Norm Coleman's staff in May as the City's director of strategic initiatives. Mische will focus on several long-term projects, including housing, Get Ready 2000, the City's Y2K program, riverfront development and competitive bidding for City services.



"Erich's great strategic vision and energy are truly assets to the City," Mayor Coleman said. "He also has the great ability to concentrate on outcomes and will bring these talents to my important policy objectives over the next three years."

Mische previously worked for the Mayor's Office as director of strategic planning and communications director. He is currently executive vice president of Media Rare.

On the Calendar

Saint Paul Art Crawl

April 15 - 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

April 17 - 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Free, self-guided tour of more than 150 artists' studios in Lowertown Saint Paul. Contact: 651-292-4373

Flea Market and Antique Spectacular

April 17 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

April 18 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hundreds of antique dealers buying and selling at the Minnesota State Fair Grandstand. Tickets available at the door. Contact 651-771-9654.

Como Zoo Honors Earth Day with 5K Run/Walk



Put your walking or running shoes on and celebrate Earth Day with a 5K Run/Walk beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 17, at Como Zoo. The race, which begins and ends at Como Zoo, takes participants through Como Park and around Como Lake. A Kid's 1K Fun Run will proceed the race, starting at 9 a.m. An awards ceremony and Earth Fair — with snacks and resource material from earth-related organizations — will follow the 5K Run/Walk.

Youth registration is \$10 and adult registration is \$15 before April 8 or \$20 after April 8. All participants receive a t-shirt. For more information or a registration form, call Como Zoological Society at 651-487-8229.

City Update

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City Update is a bi-weekly newsletter for City employees published by the Citizen Service Office of the City of Saint Paul. Submission deadline is noon on Tuesday, one week before payday. Call 266-8528 for information or for a calendar.

Pioneer Party Calendar

Join in Saint Paul's 150th birthday celebration.
Stop by these upcoming parties:

Saturday, April 17: Yarusso's

Two for one - Yarusso's famous meatballs
All Day - 637 Payne Avenue

Thursday, April 22: Wabasha Street Caves

Swing dancing lessons, party favors and balloon drop
7 to 10 p.m. 215 S. Wabasha Street
(\$6 cover charge)

150 Trivia

Each week a trivia question about the history of Saint Paul will appear in City Update with answers appearing in the following issue.

April 9 Trivia

Q: Which high school did F. Scott Fitzgerald attend?

Answer to March 26 Trivia

Q: Which U.S. President was also a commander of Fort Snelling?

A: **Zachary Taylor, 1828.**

Job Openings as of April 9, 1999

Application Deadline	Title	Bi-Weekly or Hourly Salary Rate	Exam Date
04/19/99	Accounting Clerk I (prom)	\$881.99	04/23/99
Open	Clerk - Typist II	\$867.58	TBN
Open	Communications Technician	\$1359.09	TBN
Open	Communications Technician Trainee	\$1111.53	TBN
04/13/99	Custodian-Engineer I - BOE	\$16.34 per hr	04/27/99
Open	DIRECTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION	\$67,021 annual	QuaLS
04/26/99	**Food Service Assistance (part-time)	\$8.43 per hr	04/26/99
4/20/99	Food Service Supervisor I (part-time)	\$10.93 per hr	04/28/99
04/17/99	**Golf Ranger (seasonal/part-time)	\$6.01 per hr	04/17/99
Open	House Custodian I (part-time)	\$7.00 per hr	TBN
Open	Library Associate (part-time)	\$1086.23	QuaLS
Open	Park Aide (seasonal part-time)	\$6.88 per hr	QuaLS
Open	Parks & Recreation Assistant (seasonal/part-time)	\$5.50 per hr	TBN
04/17/99	**Refectory Attendant (seasonal/part-time)	\$8.41 per hr	04/17/99
Open	Ticket Sellers -- River Centre (part-time)	\$5.50 per hr (in training)	TBN
Open	Water Safety Instructor & Life Guard (seasonal)	\$7.75 & \$7.25	TBN

****This is a walk-in-examination. Do not submit a job application before the test.**

Note: Call or visit the Office of Human Resources to receive the official job announcement for these positions.

Location: 400 City Hall Annex. Phone: (651) 266-6500 (TTY/TDD (651) 266-6501). For jobs announced after March 4, please call our 24-hour job line, (651) 266-6502.